

## MEMORANDUM

**COSHAC**

Agenda Item No. 2 (C)

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**TO:** Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

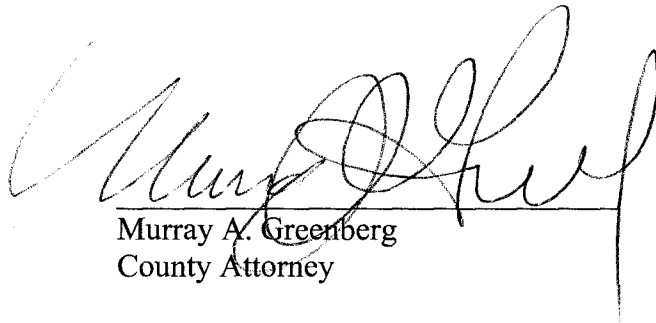
**DATE:** March 15, 2006

**FROM:** Murray A. Greenberg  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution directing County  
Manager to develop a  
Domestic Violence Plan for  
children

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The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Commissioner Rebeca Sosa, Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson and Commissioner Dorrin D. Rolle.



Murray A. Greenberg  
County Attorney

MAG/bw



# MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

**TO:** Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez **DATE:**  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Murray A. Greenberg  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No.

Please note any items checked.

- ☐ "4-Day Rule" ("3-Day Rule" for committees) applicable if raised
- ☐ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- ☐ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- ☐ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- ☐ Budget required
- ☐ Statement of fiscal impact required
- ☐ Bid waiver requiring County Manager's written recommendation
- ☐ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing
- ☐ Housekeeping item (no policy decision required)
- ☐ No committee review

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor

Agenda Item No.

Veto \_\_\_\_\_

Override \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO  
DEVELOP A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PLAN FOR CHILDREN  
THAT ASSISTS CHILDREN IMPACTED BY DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE AND RAISES AWARENESS ABOUT THE  
AFFECTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON CHILDREN

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence is a destructive and far-reaching social problem that impacts every segment of the community, particularly children; and

**WHEREAS**, children do not have to be physically or verbally abused to be hurt by domestic violence; and

**WHEREAS**, children who witness or are exposed to domestic violence are at greater risk of physical assault and behavioral, social, emotional, and cognitive problems which can create a cycle of violence that spans generations; and

**WHEREAS**, children impacted by domestic violence experience higher levels of aggression, anxiety, and depression; and also suffer from low self-esteem, poor school performance, and limited problem solving skills; and

**WHEREAS**, many children who witness domestic violence or are exposed to domestic violence go undetected because domestic violence remains a well-guarded family secret in many households; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board seeks to create and implement a Domestic Violence Plan for Children that increases public awareness of domestic violence and the negative impact that it has on children and provides increased services to children affected; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board also desires to collaborate with the Miami-Dade County School System and the Miami-Dade County Children's Trust ("Children's Trust") to educate children about domestic violence and anger management,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA:**

**Section 1.** The County Manager is directed to develop a Domestic Violence Plan for Children that will assist children impacted by domestic violence, raise awareness about the affects of domestic violence on children and educate children about domestic violence.

**Section 2.** The Plan shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following items in the development of the Domestic Violence Plan for Children:

(a) Creation of an alliance consisting of children's advocates and representatives from various entities to make recommendations to the County Manager regarding the development of a Domestic Violence Plan for Children. The advocates and representatives may be selected from the following entities: the State Attorney's Office of the 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, the Miami-Dade County Police Department and Department of Human Services, the Miami-Dade County School Board, the Domestic Violence Oversight Board, Safe Space Foundation, The University of Miami's Linda Ray Intervention Center, and a community based organization dedicated to child abuse prevention.

(b) Development of age appropriate programs by the Department of Human Services and the Children's Trust to educate children about domestic violence and anger management including, but not limited to, skits, puppet shows, panel discussions, workshops and teen dating sessions.

(c) Creation of a partnership between the Department of Human Services, the Miami-Dade County School Board and the Children's Trust to incorporate said domestic violence programs into the school curriculum and provide increased student counseling and teacher training.

(d) Development of a community-wide public awareness media campaign about the impact of domestic violence on children and available resources. The campaign shall include, without limitation, public service announcements in the print media and on Miami-Dade TV; advertisements and announcements in County facilities, on County property and on the County website; and modification of the Department of Human Services website to include specific information on the impact of domestic violence on children and available services.

(e) The provision of additional services for children residing at County shelters and housing facilities including, but not limited to, additional individual and group therapeutic counseling services and the establishment of a funded budget for emergency, educational and recreational needs of children who are residing at County shelters or facilities.

(f) Designation of social workers or child advocates to assess the needs of children immediately after a domestic violence incident.

(g) Development of a Miami-Dade Police Department protocol for responding to domestic violence crime scenes when children are present including, but not limited to, notifying social workers or child advocates with experience in the area of domestic violence to assist the victim and his or her children and documenting details about any children present.

(h) Training of Miami-Dade Police Department officers to better prepare them for responding to domestic violence incidents that impact children and incidents involving the mentally ill.

**Section 3.** Within 90 days of the effective date of this Resolution, the County Manager shall submit a written report to the Community Outreach, Safety & Health Administration Committee detailing Miami-Dade County's Domestic Violence Plan for Children and implementation schedule. Following Committee consideration and acceptance of the Plan, the Plan shall be submitted to the Board for approval.

The foregoing resolution was sponsored by Commissioner Rebeca Sosa, Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson and Commissioner Dorrin D. Rolle. and offered by Commissioner , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

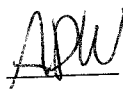
Joe A. Martinez, Chairman	
Dennis C. Moss, Vice-Chairman	
Bruno A. Barreiro	Jose "Pepe" Diaz
Audrey M. Edmonson	Carlos A. Gimenez
Sally A. Heyman	Barbara J. Jordan
Dorrin D. Rolle	Natacha Seijas
Katy Sorenson	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 25<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2006. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BY ITS BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.



Abigail Price-Williams

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk